

MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2018

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Paul Raia, Darcy Devney, Karen Mathiasen, Kerrie Fallon,
Paul Czech, Michael Rademacher, Liza Molina

Members Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire

Others Present: Jack Jones, A.D.A. Coordinator
Ellen Leigh, Disability Advocate

Results of Town Day 2018:

Paul Raia said that the Kids on the Block attracted a lot of children and adults to the Commission booth. Karen Mathiasen said that talking with attendees at Town day she found to be very enjoyable. Kerrie Fallon agreed with Paul Raia that the Kids on the Block drew a large crowd to the Commission Booth. Kerrie also said that many people complained about the brick sidewalks. Jack said that the 500 clips provided as a promotional item at Town Day cost \$436.40 and that the 200 McGraff Bags provided cost \$260.00. Jack also said that the fee for having the Kids on the Block was \$750.00. Jack said that the Commission may want to consider or at least have a discussion in the future about spending less funds at Town Day. Jack said that Cynthia DeAngelis had prepared the Commission Brochures but because of an oversight the brochures were unfortunately not available at Town Day. Jack also said that 7 handicapped parking spaces were available at the Senior Center Building for Town Day. Commission Members agreed that for future Town Days more information needs to be provided to the public about the availability and location of the handicapped parking spaces. Paul Raia suggested that if the Commission provides any literature in the future that we have copies available in large print.

Letter to Town Manager Regarding Funds from Handicapped Parking Violations:

Paul Czech said his intention in writing the letter was to put the Town Manager on notice that the Commission is serious about receiving funds from handicapped parking violations. Cynthia DeAngelis said that her experiences with the Town that had the best results were when the Commission showed that it was willing to work collaboratively with the Town. Cynthia said that the Commission must show that the Commission is not interested in evading any part of the Town's budget. Michael Rademacher made a motion seconded by Darcy Devney that the Commission send the letter as written by Paul Czech. Darcy Devney questioned who should sign the letter with the Commission agreeing that the letter should be signed by Cynthia DeAngelis as the Chair and that the letter should be copied to Doug Heim, Town Council. The letter would need to be sent to Jack Jones to be written on Commission on Disability Letter Head and then signed by Cynthia DeAngelis.

Update on Inquiries and concerns:

Jack Jones provided a list of all inquiries and concerns received during the past month.

Community Access Monitor Training:

Jack Jones said that two-day training will be held at the Community Senior Center, 117 East Central Street, Natick on Wednesday and Thursday, October 17th and 18th, 2018 from 9am to 3pm. The deadline for registering is Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

Ethics Training:

Cynthia DeAngelis said that this training is required by all Town Commission and Committee Members. Jack Jones said he would send to all Commission on Disability members the link to the training. Cynthia said that by the November 2018 meeting all Commission Members should have completed the training which takes approximately one hour and each member will receive a certificate of completion.

Other Business:

Ellen Leigh questioned if buttons should be on all traffic signal poles. Michael Rademacher said that buttons to control the crossings are on all traffic signal poles from Pleasant Street to the Alewife Brook Parkway and that eventually buttons will be added on all the other traffic signals in the Town that currently do not have the buttons. Ellen also expressed concern about the condition of the sidewalk on Mystic Street at the bridge and also about the sidewalk on Summer Street being too narrow. Michael Rademacher said that the bridge on Mystic Street is scheduled to be replaced and that eventually the sidewalk on Summer Street between Mystic and Mill Street will be widened. Paul Raia asked if the time allowed to cross streets at traffic signals could be extended. Michael Rademacher said that the Federal Standards have a minimum time allowed based on the width of the crossing. Michael said that the Town's transportation planner should be reviewing each cross walk to ensure adequate time for safe crossing. Michael Rademacher said that a pilot program will create a dedicate bus lane on Mass. Ave., eastbound, from Varum Street to Alewife Brook Parkway, Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for a one month pilot program from October 9th-November 9th. Michael said that one handicapped parking space will be removed and not relocated during the pilot period. Michael also talked about sidewalk treatments in Historical Districts. The Town is considering allowing residents in Historic Districts an option in what sidewalk treatment is used in front of their home. The resident would however be responsible for the extra cost of brick treatments. Michael said that if brick treatments are chosen the bricks would be required to be placed on top of a cement base in order that the bricks remain even and do not shift. Jack Jones said that the Council on Aging has purchased an Infrared assistive listening system. This system has 1 transmitter and 10 receivers. The listening system will be housed with the Commission on Disability.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.